



**For immediate release
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DCR AWARDS \$17.2 MILLION IN CONTRACTS FOR STORROW DRIVE TUNNEL AND BOWKER OVERPASS REPAIRS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has awarded an \$11.5 million contract to SPS New England of Salisbury to make interim repairs to the Storrow Drive Tunnel, which carries eastbound (inbound) traffic through Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. DCR has also awarded SPS a \$5.69 million contract for repairs to the Bowker Overpass, which carries traffic onto Storrow Drive westbound from the Fenway.

Work on the Storrow Drive Tunnel is expected to start in July and continue until the end of November, then begin again in spring. The project is expected to be completed by the end of April, 2009.

Tunnel repairs will include replacing deteriorated concrete in the roof and wall sections of the tunnel and installing waterproofing membranes in roof joints to prevent water seepage. Also, the stormwater collection system in the tunnel will be connected to a groundwater recharge system along Back Street.

The Bowker repairs are expected to start in mid-June, and be completed in October 2009. That work will include replacing the deck and roadway; replacing the street lighting on the roadway and the pedestrian lighting under the structure; repairing the cement support structures; and repairing and painting the steel structure.

Because the existing Charles River walkway winds under the Bowker Overpass, pedestrians will be temporarily detoured while the repair work is taking place. To accommodate foot traffic, the contractor is constructing a 10-foot-wide floating walkway in the Charles River around the work site. Work on the overpass will not begin until the walkway is complete, expected to be in mid-June.

"We are very pleased to be moving forward with repairs on both of these projects," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "This work will enable DCR to plan carefully for the longer-term future of the tunnel and surrounding area, and will ensure the integrity of both structures for several years to come."

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“I am pleased that DCR has started the long overdue repairs to the Bowker overpass and is maintaining its commitment to community involvement,” Stated Representative Byron Rushing. “I look forward to working with DCR to ensure that the work causes as little disturbance to the neighborhood as possible and that the temporary detours are accessible.”

To address the community’s questions and concerns on traffic management and other construction issues surrounding both the Storrow Drive Tunnel and Bowker Overpass projects, DCR has scheduled a public meeting on June 4, 6-8:30 p.m., in the Boston Public Library’s Rabb Auditorium, 700 Boylston St. The first hour will be devoted to a discussion of the Storrow Tunnel project, followed by a discussion of the Bowker project.

“Since these repair projects may have an impact on local residents, I encourage those who have questions and concerns to attend the public meeting. This is an opportunity to meet with the state officials who are responsible for ensuring that the project go smoothly and with a minimum of disruption in our community,” said Representative Marty Walz.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.